



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

Release No. CESWF-PA-00-35 Contact: Ron Ruffennach

For Release: Immediate 30 Jun 00 Phone: (817) 978-2196

Corps calls for extra caution during holiday weekend

The July 4th weekend traditionally brings the season's greatest surge of visitors to lakes throughout Texas. Because temperatures this week are expected to be near the century mark, even more recreationists are expected to converge on area lakes.

"Increased attendance at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes always creates a special need for water safety awareness," Col. Jim Weller, Fort Worth District Engineer, said today.

"We've had 19 fatalities related to recreation at Fort Worth District lakes since the beginning of the year," Weller said, "and all of them were preventable."

Common hazards include temporary lapses in adult supervision of small children, alcohol and drug abuse, reckless operation of personal watercraft, diving from banks into unknown depths, skiing in congested areas, overexertion, swimming in undesignated areas and overcrowding of boats. Weller also cautions boaters to be especially alert since the lakes will be crowded.

Visitors to Corps lakes are also reminded that fireworks are not permitted on or near the lakes at any time during the year. Fireworks may cause serious personal injury such as severe burns and hearing loss as well as grass fires and other property damage.

Weller added that consideration for others and common sense will help ensure a safe and pleasant holiday weekend.

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<http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/links/pao/pao.htm>